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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

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Division Director

Inspection Report

Minerals Regulatory Program

January 4, 2016

Reviewed: PJB

Mine Name: Road Canyon (proposed)	Permit Number: S/027/0115
Operator Name: Robert Steele	Inspection Date: August 14, 2015
Inspector(s): Peter Brinton	Time: mid-day
Other Participants: none	Mine Status: Proposed

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Permit fee: Current

Bond Renewal Date: N/A

Bond Amount: none

Inspection Purpose: Determine whether site has been disturbed prior to file closure

Inspection Summary: The small mine Notice was submitted in 2010, but permitting was not completed, nor was reclamation surety posted. However, annual permit fees have been paid through 2015. No mine disturbance recognizable as Robert Steele's proposed operation (an 800 foot long adit running roughly west into the mountain from the old road switchbacks) was found, despite the 2015 annual report citing 1 acre of disturbance. The old road and general area was walked. The lease ends in 2020, apparently.

An old cut-fill road with a few switchbacks was found in the immediate vicinity of the proposed operation. Incomplete Division correspondence indicates this disturbance is (or was) bonded with SITLA. The disturbance pre-dates Mr. Steele's project, and may have been associated with Echo Bay Exploration Inc.'s exploration project in the 1980s. A solitary squarrose knapweed plant (a noxious weed) was discovered on the old road, which has largely and naturally revegetated with natives.

Conclusions and Recommendations: No disturbance associated with this proposed Notice was discovered. No small mine permit was ever issued, and no reclamation surety exists. Considering the time elapsed without permitting or mining activity, it is recommended that the file be closed, and the operator notified that new permitting with the Division is needed prior to future mining or exploration. Aggressive weed control may be needed in the event of future surface disturbing activities.

Inspector's Signature

Peter Brinton

PNB: pnb; pbb

cc: Robert Steele, operator (1055 North 400 East, Nephi, Utah 84648)

Jerry Mansfield, SITLA (ML-48369); jmansfield@utah.gov

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View of the general site without new disturbance, looking roughly north-northwest. Note the old switchbacks from a previous project to the right. Stitched.



Volunteer vegetation on the old road.



Squarrose knapweed flower and plant.